

FACT SHEET Superfund Program

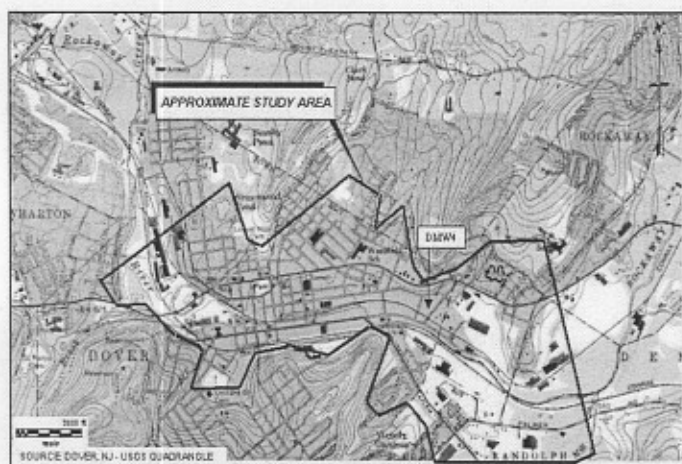


Dover Municipal Well No. 4 Morris County, New Jersey

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Where is Dover Municipal Well No. 4 located?

The Dover Municipal Well No. 4 is located in the Town of Dover, New Jersey and is approximately 1.5 miles east of three potable water production wells which serve a community of approximately 22,000 people. The Dover Water Commission owns and operates this municipal well field.



How did Dover Municipal Well No. 4 become a Superfund site?

From 1965 to 1980, Dover Municipal Well No. 4 was one of the Town of Dover's primary drinking water supply wells. In 1980, after routine well testing by the Town of Dover and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), elevated levels of volatile organic solvents were found in the groundwater samples from Well No. 4. Based on these results, the well was voluntarily removed from service by the Town of Dover. Since that time,

standby Well No. 3 has been used in place of Well No. 4 as a potable water production well. Dover Municipal Well No. 4 was listed on the National Priorities List (NPL) in September 1983. The NPL is a list of the hazardous waste sites around the country that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has made eligible for cleanup under Superfund.

What were the next steps after the site was listed?

After the site was added to the NPL, EPA performed a preliminary evaluation and determined that the site did not pose an immediate threat to the public, providing that the well is not used for potable purposes. Based on a remedial investigation and feasibility study (RI/FS) performed by the NJDEP, a Record of Decision (ROD), which selected a cleanup remedy, was issued on September 30, 1992.

The cleanup remedy selected in the ROD called for extraction and treatment of contaminated groundwater to restore the aquifer to drinking water standards. The ROD also called for a subsequent RI/FS to investigate the overall extent of the groundwater contamination, to identify and investigate specific sources of the contamination, and to develop and evaluate remedial alternatives, as appropriate.

EPA conducted a Preliminary Design Investigation for the groundwater remedy, which included an investigation to determine the source of the contamination. On September 30, 2005, EPA issued a ROD, which selected a remedy for the contaminated soil and shallow groundwater at the source and amended the 1992 ROD.

Has EPA identified the source of the groundwater contamination?

EPA identified a Dry Cleaning Property as the source of the contamination. In the 2005 ROD, EPA selected a remedy that includes demolishing the dry cleaner building, excavating the contaminated soil and chemically treating any residual source material. EPA also amended the groundwater remedy selected in the 1992 ROD by substituting monitored natural attenuation for active remediation because the groundwater contamination has decreased significantly through natural attenuation since the 1992 ROD was issued. EPA currently believes that once the contamination source has been removed, the contaminants in the plume will attenuate to acceptable levels in nearly the same time period as they would with active treatment.

Has EPA conducted any additional monitoring?

In December 2002, August 2003, February and August 2004, EPA conducted ambient (outdoor) and indoor air testing in several homes in the vicinity of the dry cleaner because of the potential for volatile organic compounds present in the groundwater near the dry cleaner to migrate into the air in the basements of homes. Results of the four rounds of air sampling indicate that levels detected in the indoor and ambient air in the winter months were generally lower than those detected in the summer months. This may indicate that the dry cleaner operations were a source of volatile organic solvents in the ambient air. Since June 17, 2005, operations have ceased at the dry cleaning facility thereby possibly eliminating the ambient volatile organic solvents contribution. EPA is planning another round of ambient and indoor air sampling in the spring 2006.

In addition, the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, in cooperation with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, evaluated the potential public health impacts to the residents of these homes. Two reports outlining their findings were released in the spring of 2004 and 2005.

How can I get more information about

what EPA is doing at the Dover Municipal Well No. 4 Site?

EPA encourages public participation throughout the Superfund process. If you have any questions, or would like additional information, please contact the following EPA personnel:

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Copies of site-related documents such as the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study report, the Record of Decision, and supporting documentation are available at EPA's offices at:

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